

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of April 3, 2009 is gratefully acknowledged

REPLACEMENT SHEETS of drawings as requested by the examiner are being submitted herewith.

The rejection of claims 33 - 37, 41 - 44, 49, 65 and 66 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as indefinite because of certain recitations in claims 65 and 66 is noted. In reply, claims 65 and 66 have been amended to overcome this rejection. The objected to phrases in claims 65 and 66 have been removed.

The rejection of claims 33, 35 and 65 under 35 USC 102(b) by Shibo et al, the rejection of claims 34, 36 and 66 under 35 USC 102(b) by Shibo et al, or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) over Shibo et al, and the rejection of claims 37 and 41 - 44 under 35 USC 103(a) over Shibo et al in view of Wentworth are noted and are respectfully traversed.

Shibo et al. is based on a cooling air stream on one side of a pc board and heating of the other side of a pc board. Thermally critical components are exposed to the cooling air, other components are masked from the cooling air (e.g. see claim 1 and the specification text in column 3, lines 51 -61) by means of a mask pallet (or "shielding plate" according to claim 1). Such a mask is not at all necessary for the present invention. Masks or other means that are additional for controlling the cooling air or the heat are in no way contemplated by the present invention. It is simply the PC board itself that thermally shields critical components from the heating used for soldering operations.

To insure clarity on this point, claims 65 and 66 have been amended (really re-arranged) so that this distinction is quite clear. None of the references of

record teach this distinction, i.e., using the circuit board itself for shielding or thermally separating.

Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 33 - 37, 41 - 44, 49, 65 and 66 should now be allowed

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Date: Oct. 5, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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